

## REMARKS

Claims 13-15 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

New claims 16-51 also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

The amendments here presented are made for the purposes of better defining the invention, rather than to overcome the rejections for patentability. Support for the amendments herein presented can be found in the specification and claims as filed. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

### The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Grabner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,731,694) in view of Greanias et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,386,219). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled, thus the rejection is now moot.

### The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being allegedly unpatentable over Grabner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,731,694) in view of DePalma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,558,977). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 has been canceled, thus the rejection is now moot.

The new claims 16-51 are considered patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

Request for Allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.


Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.

Dated: February 3, 2003

Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.  
PO Box 6149  
Stateline, NV 89449  
(775) 586-9500

  
Andrew D. Gathy  
Reg. No. 46,441